

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1 to 74 (canceled)

75. (previously presented) A method for moisturizing the eye comprising administering to the surface of the eye less than 3 microliters of an aqueous fluid consisting essentially of water.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the volume of fluid administered to the eye is less than about 2 microliters.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the volume of aqueous fluid administered to the eye is from 1 to 2 microliters.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the average size of the droplets is less than 20 microns in diameter.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the administered fluid is in the form of a mist.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the volume of fluid administered to the eye is less than about 2 microliters.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the volume of aqueous fluid administered to the eye is from 1 to 2 microliters.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the average size of the droplets is less than 20 microns in diameter.

83. (previously presented) A method for moisturizing the surface of the eye comprising administering 10 microliters or less of an aqueous composition to the surface of the eye, wherein the composition has an osmolarity less than that of the normal tear film, which normal tear film is a trilaminar structure having an outer lipid layer, a middle aqueous layer, and an inner mucous layer, and wherein the administration of the composition to the surface of the eye leaves intact the trilaminar structure of the tear film.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein 6 microliters or less is administered.

85. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein 2 microliters or less is administered.

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein the administration of the composition rehydrates the aqueous layer of the tear film, without disrupting the mucous or lipid layers of the tear film.

87. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein the aqueous composition consists essentially of water.

88. (previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the aqueous composition is administered in the form of a mist of dispersed droplets in air.

89. (previously presented) The method of claim 88 wherein the droplets in the mist are between 5 and 150 microns in diameter.

90. (new) A method for moisturizing the eye comprising spraying a mist consisting essentially of droplets of water having an average diameter between 5 and 150 microns on the surface of the eye of a subject in need thereof, wherein the amount of water that is sprayed on the eye is sufficient to hydrate the aqueous layer of the tear film on the eye of the subject but is below that which will flood the eye, and wherein the mist is sprayed from a device comprising a sealed container, water within said container, and an actuator for spraying a mist of water from said container.

91. (new) The method of claim 90 wherein the subject is suffering from dry eye.

92. (new) The method of claim 90 wherein proteins and electrolytes that were present in the tear film on the surface of the eye prior to the delivery of the aqueous fluid are present in the tear film following the delivery of the aqueous fluid to the surface of the eye as determined by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

93. (new) The method of claim 90 wherein the device further comprises a sealed flexible pouch containing said water within said container and a pressurization agent between said container and said pouch.

94. (new) A device for moisturizing the surface of the eye comprising a sealed container, an aqueous fluid within said container, and an actuator that delivers a mist of said fluid from said container.

95. (new) The device of claim 94 which further comprises a sealed flexible pouch within said container, which pouch contains said aqueous fluid, and a pressurization agent between said container and said pouch.

96. (new) The device of claim 94 wherein said aqueous fluid consists essentially of water.